

# AAUW Santa Clarita Valley Tech Trek Program 2015 Report

October 2015

# AAUW Tech Trek Program

- Tech Trek is a program run by AAUW –National.
- The 1991 study ‘Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America’ researched and published by the AAUW Educational Foundation (as well as studies from other sources) indicated that young women tended to drop out of science and math courses during the middle school years.
- Based on the studies, AAUW CA targeted girls entering the 8th grade as the age best able to benefit from such an experience.
- The goals set for Tech Trek Science Camp for Girls were to:
  1. Encourage a diverse group of young women entering eighth grade to take math and science courses each year throughout high school.
  2. Motivate students to attend college.
  3. Inspire young women to consider careers in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM).
- The first camp was held at Stanford University in 1998. The camp was conceived as a weeklong residential camp where the girls would experience learning about science and math in a fun environment from dedicated teachers and volunteers.
- Since then, over 10,000 girls have attended 10 camps established at 8 college universities throughout California.

# AAUW SCV Tech Trek Program

- As of 2015, SCV Branch has sent 191 girls to Tech Trek camps continuously since 1999.
- Santa Clarita Valley has 6 public middle schools and 2 charter schools that the branch works with.
- Local girls are nominated by their science and math teachers. They then must complete an application and essay and may be invited to interview.
- The number of campers each year is dependent on the amount of funds AAUW SCV branch can raise, as the girls can only attend based on receiving a scholarship from the branch.
- The current cost is \$900 per camper. In the last few years, Santa Clarita Valley branch has sent its campers to UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Fresno and Whittier College.

# AAUW 2015 Donors

In 2015, AAUW SCV sent 27 campers to Tech Trek camps at UCSB, Whittier and Fresno State

- Donations to the AAUW SCV Tech Trek program are tax-deductible. Funds are deposited to AAUW, which is a recognized 501(c)3 organization.
- We are proud of and grateful to our corporate and individual donors, who include:
  - AAUW SCV Branch and other community members \$4,025
  - Boston Scientific Corporation \$1,000
  - Esterline Corporation \$1,000
  - Zonta Club Of Santa Clarita Valley \$1,000
  - Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich \$900
  - Los Angeles County Commission for Women \$1,800
  - PPG Industries Foundation \$4,500
  - Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation \$4,500
- AAUW SCV Branch holds a Book Lover's Luncheon
  - All proceeds go to AAUW SCV Tech Trek.
  - In 2015, we raised over \$2,400
- Carryover funds from prior year's fundraising efforts were used to fund 27 camper's (one-time funding)

# 2015 Fresno Tech Trek Campers



# 2015 UCSB Tech Trek Campers





# 2015 Whittier Tech Trek Campers



# 2014 Tech Trek Campers

- In 2014, AAUW SCV sent 16 campers to Tech Trek camps at UCSB and Fresno State





# 2013 Tech Trek Campers

- In 2013, AAUW SCV sent 14 campers to Tech Trek camps at UCSB, Whittier and Fresno State



# Tech Trek Survey Results

[www.aauw-techtrek.org/TT\\_Survey\\_2014.pdf](http://www.aauw-techtrek.org/TT_Survey_2014.pdf)

## Interest and Confidence in STEM

A majority of alumnae surveyed believe that Tech Trek increased their interest in science (94 percent), technology (77 percent), mathematics (70 percent), engineering (52 percent), and computer programming (44 percent).

Increased self-confidence was another hugely important result.

**91%**

of girls reported that Tech Trek boosted their self-confidence in their ability to be successful in science classes, and 78 percent said the same for math classes.



## Decision to Pursue STEM Curricula

Thirty-two percent of respondents said they went on to participate in after-school or extracurricular STEM activities during high school, and many started, led, or joined STEM-focused clubs. Others volunteered for or competed in STEM-related activities.

Students commented on the unique value of their one-on-one experiences at Tech Trek as distinct from what they did at school. Many remembered the camp's creative approach through "eye-opening," hands-on activities.

"The short time I spent at Tech Trek gave me the confidence to do what I love by taking advanced math and science courses," said one respondent, who went on to major in biology and neuroscience.

**82%**

of girls chose to take more science classes in high school because of Tech Trek.

# Tech Trek Survey Results

[www.aauw-techtrek.org/TT\\_Survey\\_2014.pdf](http://www.aauw-techtrek.org/TT_Survey_2014.pdf)

Tech Trek alumnae surpass the national average in most advanced math and science courses:

GIRLS WHO COMPLETED PRECALCULUS IN 2009

TECK TREK  
ALUMNAE

77%



NATIONAL  
AVERAGE

37%



87%

of respondents  
had completed  
algebra II, compared  
with 78 percent of  
female students and  
73 percent of male  
students nationally.

The majority (73 percent) of respondents were enrolled in four-year college or university programs and expected to graduate within four years from the time of the survey, and 23 percent were attending two-year colleges.

# 2016 AAUW SCV Tech Trek Goals

- Our goal is to send at least 24 campers to Tech Trek in the summer of 2016.
- In addition to Tech Trek, AAUW SCV has a STEM Stars program for all Tech Trek alumni and other interested local girls.
- This program is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year and provides 8th through 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls opportunities to meet women in STEM fields at their places of work.
- For further information, please contact Diane Bartley at [dbartley2000@hotmail.com](mailto:dbartley2000@hotmail.com) or 661-254-5403 or visit [www.aauw-scv.org](http://www.aauw-scv.org).